



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown DistrictVol. 65 January 2010, Scottsdale Police Department District I; 3700 N. 75th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480) 312-2417

Social Networking Safety

Tweens, teens and adults have flocked to so-called social networking sites including MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, just to name a few. So much so, that kids who don't have a profile are becoming the exception to the rule. Uncle Joe has his resume posted online in hopes of landing a better job and Grandma is on Facebook so she can keep track of everyone's activities. However, there may be others out there watching your activities with more sinister intentions. In addition to "Stranger Danger", there are a host of other potentially harmful consequences when children and adults ignore safety online.

Most social networking sites have privacy settings that allow you to restrict who has access to your profile and website information. Choose one that allows you to filter out anyone you don't specifically give permission to. Do not allow anyone you don't know to have access to your information.

Kids and young adults on the Internet often fail to recognize the danger, taking everyone at face value. Explain to them that on the "Anonymous Web" there ARE predators pretending to be friends. If you don't personally know who you are talking to, don't assume they are telling the truth.

Tell them not to give out *any* personal information that may allow someone to find them, such as date of birth, their school, sports teams they belong to, address or phone numbers.

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From The Desk Of Commander Johnny Cervantes

Hello Community Members,

Welcome to 2010! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year. Also, I hope we can continue to expand our partnership. One way to do so is to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program.

I invite you all to view the attached file. It is a "captain's packet" designed to be a starting tool for Neighborhood Watch. All it takes is one person in a neighborhood to start the process for a neighborhood watch. It does not take much time and you will have the support of the police department to help you along the way.

One misconception is that your neighborhood watch group needs to be large to be effective. The truth is that many of our neighborhood watch groups consist of small street sections.

A good way to get your neighborhood "buzzing" is to request a neighborhood walk. An officer will come to your neighborhood and walk with you and your neighbors. This gets the neighbors talking. Call your Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy to get started, 480-312-2594, cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Make it part of your New Year's resolutions to get involved with Neighborhood Watch.

Commander Johnny Cervantes
(480) 312-2567
jcervantes@scottsdaleaz.gov

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Photos should also be closely guarded, as they can be easily manipulated. Remember, child pornography is illegal, even if it is sent by the child. Minors should never comply with a request to send provocative photos of themselves and **NEVER** go to meet someone they met online unless they take a parent or guardian. Predators like easy prey, talk to your children about what to do if they are approached.

Be aware that anything you post **NEVER** completely goes away. Even if you remove it, there may be saved versions of it out in Cyber-land that can come back to haunt you at any time. Is it something you wouldn't want your grandmother, your college recruiter, your boss or future boss to see? Then don't post it on the Internet.

Parents are responsible for what their child is doing online. Does your child let you view their profile? Does it look harmless enough and "clean"? Are the privacy settings correct? How many other profiles might they have that they don't tell you about and wouldn't want you to see? The old saying, "It's 10 o'clock, do you know where your children are?" takes on a whole new meaning on the Internet. There are many software programs that allow parents to record and review every keystroke on a computer.

In addition to the personal hazards, computers themselves can become victims to unscrupulous predators on the Web. A "friend" sends you a cute video to watch. When you click on the link it says you must download a new version of the "player" to see it. With that download you also get malware that infects your computer. The original email wasn't from your friend after all, it was a virus that had infected their computer and gained access to their contact lists.

Malware is short for Malicious Software and it is designed to infiltrate or damage a computer system without the owner's informed consent.

A strictly for-profit category of malware has emerged in spyware. Programs are designed to monitor users' web browsing, display unsolicited advertisements, or redirect affiliate marketing revenues to the spyware creator. Spyware programs do not spread like viruses; they are, in general, installed by exploiting security holes or are packaged with user-installed software, such as peer-to-peer applications (those "cute little" apps through social networking sites).

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Anti-malware software programs can be used for detection and removal of malware software that has already been installed onto a computer. This is different from, and should be used in addition to, a reliable anti-virus program. Don't allow yourself to become a victim through information theft on your computer.

In the end, each person must decide how much information they are comfortable with having out there in the world. With a lot of caution, the right tools and some common sense, interacting with others on social networking sites can be safe *and* fun for everyone.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, email: cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 2 Police Aide Randee Short at 480-312-2074, email: rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

January 9, 2010: 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
9191 E. San Salvador. FREE Event

Second Annual Fit City Scottsdale Kickoff

Celebrate fitness, health and wellness in Scottsdale. The event will offer programs, events and activities for all ages.

SPD Crime Prevention Officers will be present to collect expired and/or unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs for disposal, in addition to doing fingerprinting for children's safety.

The Kickoff takes place on the Civic Center Mall, 3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 23.

Visit www.FitCityScottsdale.org for all the details.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817